



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## Public Library

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Author Jonathan Kozol to Discuss His Work at Special Event**

*Program is Part of Public Library and City Club's "Great American Writers Series"*

**SAN DIEGO** – Author and National Book Award recipient Jonathan Kozol will speak at a special event held on Tuesday, Nov. 1 at 7 p.m. at the Central Library, located at 820 E St. in downtown San Diego. The event is part of the Great American Writers Series, presented by the City of San Diego Public Library, City Club of San Diego and UCSD-TV.

In 1964, Kozol left his comfortable surroundings in Cambridge, Mass., to begin work as a teacher in low-income, predominately black Roxbury, first in a freedom school and later in a public elementary school. He grew up in Newton, was educated at Harvard and was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford.

His first published nonfiction, "Death at an Early Age: The Destruction of the Hearts and Minds of Negro Children in the Boston Public Schools" (1967), winner of the National Book Award, drew upon his experiences as a fourth-grade teacher. The practice of immersing himself in the lives of his subjects became the pattern for his subsequent searing studies of the injustices a wealthy society visits upon its most vulnerable members.

A commission to study the problem of adult literacy resulted in "Illiterate American" (1980). In "Rachel and Her Children: Homeless Families in America" (1988) Kozol examines the stunted lives of people deprived of the raw necessities. "Savage Inequalities" (1991) details the differences between schools in affluent neighborhoods and those attended by the children of the poor.

In 1995, Kozol produced another powerful study, this time based on first-hand experience among school children in the South Bronx: "Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation."

For his new book, entitled "The Shame of the Nation: The Restoration of Apartheid Schooling in America," Kozol visited 60 schools in 11 states over a five-year period and finds, despite the promise of Brown v. Board of Education, many schools serving black and Hispanic children are spiraling backward to the pre-Brown era.

The cost of the event is \$5 per person. To make a reservation, please contact the City Club of San Diego at 619-687-3580 or [cityclubofsandiego@prodigy.net](mailto:cityclubofsandiego@prodigy.net). For more information, visit the Web site: <http://www.cityclubofsandiego.com>.

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